

specimens may now be seen in the tanks of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park.

It is a very interesting coincidence, that the remarkable Annelide found by Mr. Forbes in the same circumstances and described in the same communication is also at present in the same noble collection; for, though I have had no opportunity of closely examining the specimen, I have no doubt that the curious *Serpula* which spontaneously appeared some months ago in one of the central tanks, and which has been looked upon with some interest by zoologists, is identical with Forbes's Grecian Annelide in question. Its most salient point is the long but graduated pectination of the branchial filaments on their interior face, the pectinations projecting into the infundibulum and meeting in the centre. It will probably require to be characterized afresh, and to form a new genus.—P. H. GOSSE.

#### CYCLAS LACUSTRIS, DRAPARNAUD.

In Forbes and Hanley's admirable 'History of the British Mollusca' (vol. ii. pp. 118 & 119) is a particular and accurate description of specimens in my collection which I obtained from Mr. Clark, marked "Exmouth 1831 and Dr. Turton's cabinet." They were referred by those authors to the above-named species. Dr. Gray could not have been aware of this when he described the same species in the last Number of the 'Annals,' and assigned to it the name of "*Sphærium pallidum*." Specimens which I took last month in company with Mr. Rouse exactly agree with those in my collection mentioned above, as well as with the description and figure in Draparnaud's work. *Cyclas caliculata* (to some of the varieties of which this approaches in form), *C. rivicola*, and a variety of *C. cornea* occurred in the same spot; so that the species in question cannot be a local variety of any of the others. Its distinctive characters are the rhomboid form and nearly straight hinge-line; yellowish-white being the predominant colour, with a greyish tinge and darker irregular zones in adult specimens. It is probably the *Tellina lacustris* of Müller; but Pfeiffer, Charpentier, Dupuy and some other continental writers, appear to have mistaken for it varieties of *Cyclas cornea* and *C. caliculata*. Mr. Rouse having afterwards told me that Dr. Gray intended to publish the discovery, I communicated to the latter my ideas on the subject, but I presume not in time for him to make any use of them.—J. GWYN JEFFREYS.

1 Montagu Square, 16th June 1856.

#### Occurrence of *Clausilia Mortilleti*, Dumont, in Kent.

A shell, for which I am indebted to Mr. S. P. Woodward, and which is regarded by him as a small variety of *Clausilia Rolphii*, Leach, proves to be a pale, clear variety of *C. Mortilleti*. Mr. Woodward found it on the chalk hills at Charing in Kent, living on the ground in the woods, at the roots of ivy. Compared with a specimen of

*C. Rolphii*, collected by him at Charlton near Woolwich, it presents the following differences.

In *C. Rolphii* the shell is more elongate and the spire more gradually decreasing in breadth towards the apex, not ventricose, and suddenly narrowing to the attenuated upper portion of the spire, as in *C. Mortilleti*. It is lighter in colour, with a fulvous tint, rather than the purplish hue which pervades the specimens of the latter; the basal crest is not prominent or sharply defined, and the rima is narrow, and elongated nearly to the base; whereas in *C. Mortilleti* the crest forms a strong funiculate keel, and the periomphalus is open and semicircular. In *C. Rolphii* the lower lamella is cruciate; both species are deficient in the palatal callus so conspicuous in the true *C. plicatula*, Dr.

Length of *C. Rolphii*, 14 mill.

———— of *C. Mortilleti* from Charlton-Kings near Cheltenham, 14 mill.

———— of ditto from Charing, 11 mill.

*C. Rolphii* has  $10\frac{1}{2}$  whorls; *C. Mortilleti* only  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in English examples, but a specimen of a more slender variety, which I got at Chaud-fontaine in Belgium, exhibits the same number as *C. Rolphii*.

Thus the two distant counties of Kent and Gloucestershire produce a shell which has so long been unaccountably overlooked on the continent, as well as in England. There are some who still persist in confounding *C. Rolphii* with *plicatula* of Draparnaud, notwithstanding the differences observable, and the assurance of De Férussac, as reported by Gray. Independently of other characters the more remote costation of *plicatula*, its palatal callus, and different mode of rimation sufficiently distinguish it. In colour its ranges with *C. Mortilleti*, the differences of which were pointed out by Adolf Schmidt in the 'Annals' for January last.

*C. plicatula*, omitted in Mr. Jeffreys's notes on the Swiss Mollusca (Annals for January 1855), but noticed in his collection catalogue, occurs at Monthey and St. Maurice in the Valais, as well as at Glarus. In both catalogues he has omitted *C. pumila*, Ziegler, var.  $\beta$ , Pfr., and *C. lineolata*, Held. The latter shell I got in the tract explored by him, between Chillon and Villeneuve, as well as in the north of Switzerland.

W. H. BENSON.

12th June 1856.

#### *On the Siliceous Sporangial Sheath of the Diatomaceæ.*

In the 16th volume (1855, p. 92) of the 'Annals of Natural History,' I pointed out the occurrence of a siliceous sheath enveloping the sporangial frustule of a *Navicula* (*Amphirhynchus*?), and stated that "it was composed of silex, *i. e.* was indestructible by heat and nitric acid;" also, that it was "colourless, elongate, rounded at the ends, and furnished with coarse transverse striæ, or depressions, through which the line of fracture runs when the object is crushed."